GET FOREST SMART

PROFOR
INNOVATION AND ACTION
FOR FORESTS

PROFOR'S FOREST-SMART PROGRAMS

Forest-smart is a development approach that recognizes forests' significance for sustaining growth across many sectors, including agriculture, energy, infrastructure, and water. It seeks to work across sectors and with a variety of partners to generate new understanding and innovation about how forests can contribute to better development outcomes.

PROFOR's forest-smart programs are translating the forest-smart approach into action on the ground for improved food security, job creation, resilience, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Led by experts from sectors that historically have had adverse impacts on forests, the programs are filling analytical gaps, developing tools for integrating forests into sectoral operations, and providing evidence of what's possible. PROFOR currently has nine programs underway.

For more information about these programs, visit **http://profor.info/**

Agricultural Commodities

As the leading driver of deforestation, agriculture has created a significant impetus for policy makers to promote forest-smart interventions that avoid or minimize potential adverse impact on forests. Recognizing the need and the potential for agriculture to be part of the solution to forest conservation, PROFOR's program on Agricultural Value Chain Innovation to Reduce Forest Degradation is promoting an understanding of how agricultural value chains can play a positive role in forest conservation, as well as tree cover restoration and enhancement.

Disaster Risk Management

Forests have an important role to play in helping communities manage risks from natural disasters, address the impacts of climate change, and build sustainable resilience in vulnerable developing countries. However, specific tools for forest management for risk reduction are not readily available. PROFOR's program on Harnessing Forests for Nature-Based Solutions to Disaster Risk Management is aiming to fill this knowledge gap by developing guidelines and case studies on the use of forest-related and ecosystem-based approaches to reduce vulnerabilities and risks from natural disasters.

Energy

Effective management of forests is critical to achieving global goals on energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy. However, incorporation of forest considerations into energy decisions is often hampered by insufficient or unreliable data. PROFOR's program Mainstreaming Wood and Forests to Help Deliver Energy Access for All seeks to enhance the knowledge of the forest-energy nexus, and fosters solutions to strengthen the upstream integration of forest issues into energy planning and investments to enhance renewable energy readiness of countries and investors.

Extractive Industries

As extractive industries continue to grow in forest-rich countries, governments are increasingly committed to identifying long-term development strategies that do not adversely impact forests and the services they deliver. Supporting forest-smart interventions in the extractives sector ensures that adverse impacts on forests and their biodiversity are avoided or minimized, and also identifies opportunities to increase the productivity and resilience of the sector. PROFOR's program on Extractive Industries in Forest Landscapes: Balancing the Trade-offs and Maximizing the Benefits is developing practical tools and policy recommendations for forest-smart strategies that promote growth of the mining sector without destroying the public good value of forests.

Gender

The differences between how, why and where men and women access, use, and manage forests are significant. These differences influence the design of policies, institutional arrangements and interventions aimed at supporting sustainable forest landscapes. Therefore, it is critical to identify gender gaps from the very start of a project. PROFOR's program on Catalyzing Gender-Forests Actions is helping to improve gender-responsiveness within forest sector projects to have clear, gender-related objectives and actions. The goal is more inclusive projects that can measure improved equity outcomes. and help national and subnational partners achieve meaningful policy change.

Forest Tenure

Securing forest tenure lays the foundation for effective programs across sectors and for sustainable rural development. Despite growing attention on the importance of forest tenure security, significant gaps remain in terms of methodologies, tools and knowledge resources that would enable policy makers and practitioners to strengthen forest tenure and avoid negative impacts within relevant projects and initiatives. PROFOR's Program on Securing Forest Tenure for Rural Development is addressing these gaps and helping to ensure that development practitioners and stakeholders can accurately identify and address key factors that affect forest tenure security when designing future products and interventions.

Governance

Good governance in the forest sector is an essential requirement for sustainable forest management. However, the challenge that the international community faces is that there is not a consolidated information base on what comprises good forest governance and how to distinguish good from poor forest governance. PROFOR's program on Forest Governance Monitoring and Assessment: A Program of Dissemination, Learning and Implementation filled this knowledge gap by providing specific training that empowered countries to embed forest governance in operations, improving their effectiveness and creating additional investment opportunities in the sector. This program laid the foundational work for a new partnership with the World Bank Governance Global Practice to further mainstream forest governance issues with Ministries and stakeholders.
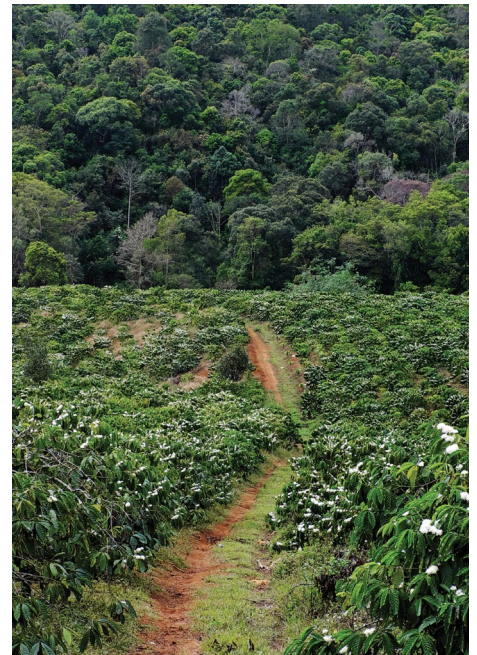
Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs)

Small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) are often a vehicle for development, jobs, and poverty alleviation among forest-dependent households, constituting 80–90 percent of enterprises in the forest sector. However, SMEs frequently suffer from limited access to markets and business and financial services, a lack of support to enhance their competitiveness, and regulatory measures that constrain their ability to operate in a legal setting. PROFOR's program on Unlocking the Potential of Small and Medium Forest Enterprises seeks to create market and policy environments that support forest sector SMEs that contribute to job creation and growth. This program is in collaboration with the World Bank's Finance and Markets Global Practice and the Trade and Competitiveness Global Practice.

Poverty

Forests support the rural economies in many countries, providing jobs for populations with few alternative employment options and creating safety nets for the poor. Therefore, the World Bank supports technical assistance and investments to harness the potential of forests and increase the incomes of poor families. To support these efforts, PROFOR's program on Understanding Forests' Contribution to Poverty Reduction is consolidating and building knowledge on forest-poverty linkages, improving how we measure households' dependence on forests, and using innovative dissemination tools to make the resulting data more widely accessible. The ultimate objective of this program is to increase the effectiveness of forest and poverty-related projects.

Interested in learning more? Contact our communications focal point: Laura Ivers: laivers@worldbankgroup.org